Antiquities in Cumberland *and* Weſtmorland, *by* Hayman Rooke, Eſq. *in a letter to the Lord Biſhop of* Carliſle, V. P.

Read at the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES January 29, 1789.

My Lord, *Woodhouſe, Dec.* 30, 1788.

I Have taken the liberty of troubling your Lordſhip with an account of ſome Roman antiquities I met with, laſt ſummer, in Cumberland; when I had the honour of being at Roſe Caſtle. The Gentleman who permitted me to take drawings of theſe aſſured me that they had never hitherto been taken notice of. I ſhall, therefore, beg your Lordſhip will do me the honour to lay the memoir before the Society, ſhould you think it worthy of their notice.

I am, with great reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt obedient and

Obliged humble Servant,

H. ROOKE.

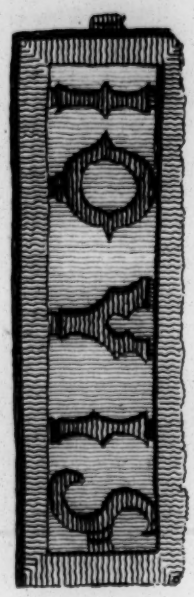
The

The altar marked (*a*) in Pl. XVII, was found about five years ago in the Roman Fort called *Caſtle-ſteed*, at *Old Penrith*; which Mr. Camden ſuppoſes to be the *Petriana* of the Romans. In Antoninus's Itinerary it is called *Voreda*; and Mr. Horſley takes it to be *Bremetenracum* [*a*]. As this gentleman has given a plan of the fort, I ſhall only mention the incloſed ſpot where it was found. It appears to have been an oblong ſquare, 20 yards by 9; the foundation of the wall is now viſible on the eaſt ſide of the fort, near the vallum, on which there are two tumuli; theſe are not in Mr. Horſley's plan.—The altar was diſcovered by ſome labourers, in digging for ſtones, about one foot under ground. The inſcription appears legible, though the five or ſix letters at the beginning of the ſixth line ſeem to be a little doubtful. ACTORIVS may be deſigned for the name or names of the præfect who erected the altar. The following letters, I ſhould think, may be read *libentiſſime vovit Pius Prefectus*: but the Society will be the beſt judges of this——The altars (*b*) and (*c*) were found laſt year (1787) in making a drain in Scotch ſtreet, Carliſle. After removing near 7 feet of rubbiſh, the altars were diſcovered lying together on a hard bed of gravel. There is not the leaſt appearance of there having been inſcriptions on theſe altars; ſo that there is reaſon to ſuppoſe they never were finiſhed. On each ſide of the altar (*b*) is an elegant figure cut in high relief, but now ſo mutilated that the features are not diſcernible; and part of the habit of figure (*d*) is difficult to make out. See the ſides at (*d*) and (*e*).

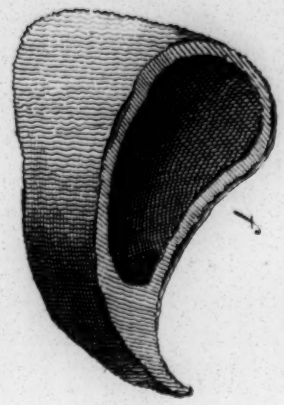
If any conjecture may be made from theſe figures, they may help to explain the occaſion of this altar's erection. Figure (*d*)

[*a*] Brit. Rom. B. I. p. III.

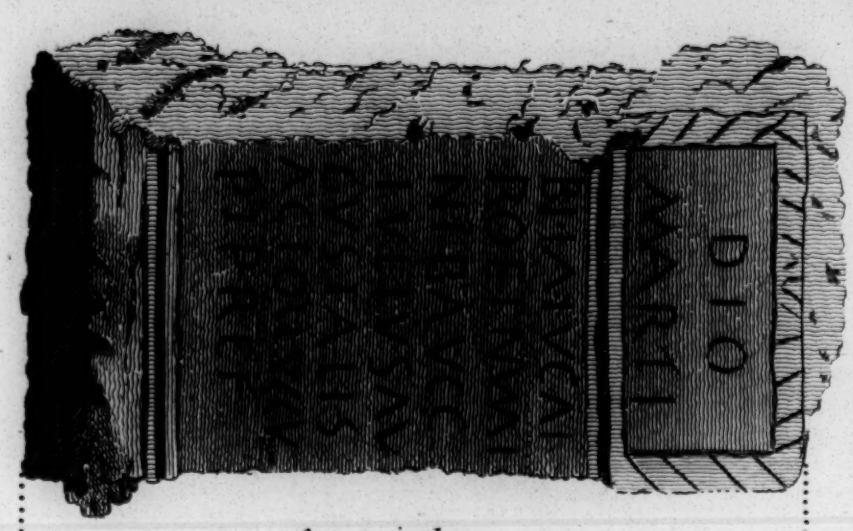
ſeems



g.



f.



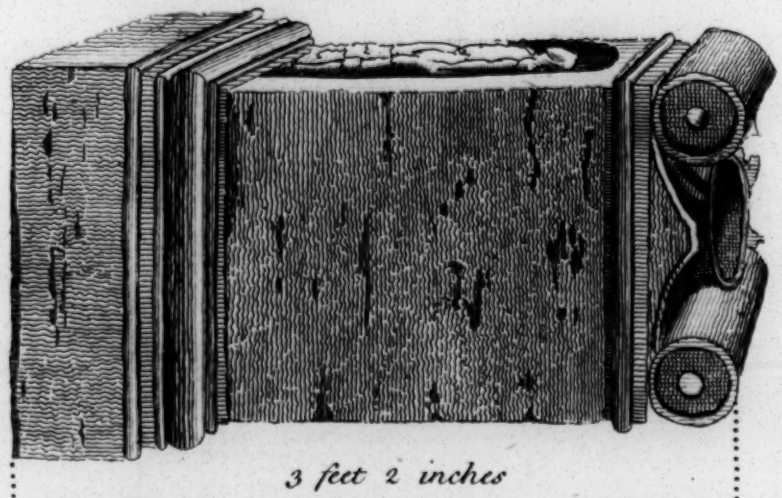
a

3 feet 4 inches

m

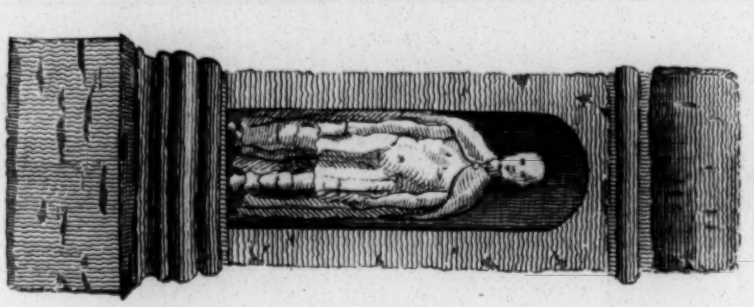
n

3 feet 1 inch

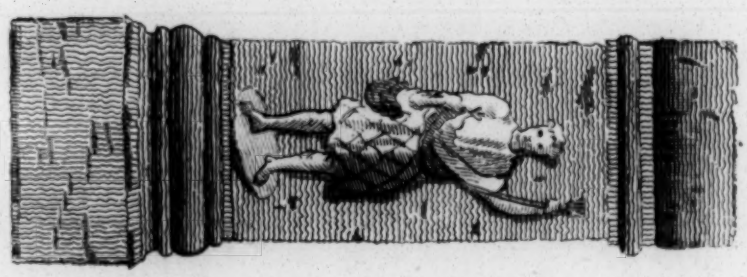


b

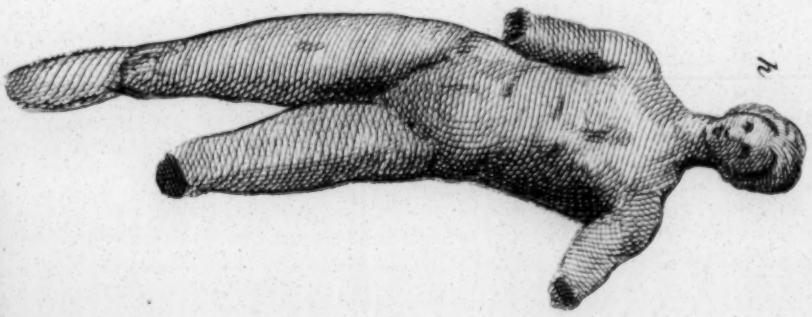
3 feet 2 inches



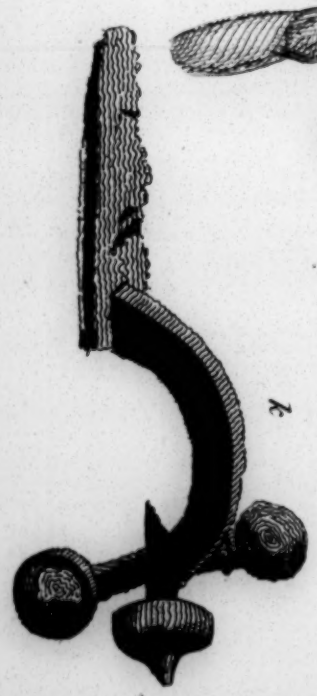
p



o

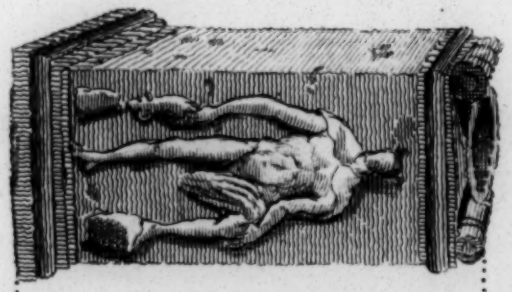


h



k

i



c

1 foot 11 inches

Vol. IX. Pl. XVII. p. 220.

ſeems to have the *Cinctus Gabinus*, which evidently appears to be faſtened by a knot on the breaſt [*b*], and therefore probably intended to repreſent a general who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf in ſome particular manner, and by whom the altar might be dedicated on account of the victory he had obtained.

Kennett tells us, that the *Cinctus* was proper only to the conſuls or generals, upon ſome extraordinary occaſions, as denouncing war, burning the ſpoils of the enemy, devoting themſelves to death for the ſafety of their army, and the like. The figure on the ſide (*e*) appears to be a ſoldier holding up a torch in his left hand as a ſignal in war, which was uſual among the Romans, and may here allude to a battle, as above mentioned. In his right hand is probably a ſhield, which it ſomewhat reſembles. The little altar (*c*) has a very ſingular figure cut in relief, which, from the horns on his head, and being almoſt naked, I ſhould ſuppoſe might be intended for a rural Deity; probably Sylvanus. He ſeems to hold a ram in his right hand, with its head downward, as if going to be ſacrificed; his left is on a globe which reſts upon his knee, with his foot upon ſomething like an altar, but the preciſer ſhape cannot be made out. This little altar is now at Carliſle, in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Carliſle; the other is at Mr. Harrington's in Carliſle.

[*b*] The *Cinctus Gabinus* was nothing elſe but when the lappet of the gown, which uſed to be brought up to the left ſhoulder, being drawn thence, was caſt off in ſuch a manner upon the back as to come round ſhort to the breaſt, and there faſten in a knot, which knot or cincture tucked up the gown, and made it ſhorter and ſtraighter. Kennet, Rom. Ant. B. p. 241.

The

The following antiquities (*f*, *g*, *h*, *i*, *k*) are all of braſs, and the ſize of the drawings. That marked (*f*) ſeems to have been part of a lamp, the top and ſocket of which is wanting. Figure (*g*) inſcribed (*Jovis*) has a little rivet at each end, which probably fixed it to the pedeſtal of the little penate (*h*) which was found with it; (*i*) is a face of one of the Lares, (*k*) appears to be a part of a fibula. Theſe were found at Brampton, about 12 miles from Carliſle, where Roman antiquities are frequently picked up. They are now in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Carliſle, to whom I am much indebted for his politeneſs on this and other occaſions.

When I was at Netherby hall, the *Caſtra exploratorum* of the Romans, Sir James Graham was ſo obliging as to ſhow me his very valuable and numerous collection of antiquities found on this remarkable ſtation. As moſt of theſe have been taken notice of, I ſhall only mention one that was found laſt ſpring (1788) in making a plantation near the houſe; ſee the figure (*l*). When it was taken up, aſhes and bits of burnt bones lay ſcattered about, but no urn. It appears to be a ſepulchral monument of a woman, whoſe prænomen might have been *Titulinia* and her nomen *Puſſitta*; but as this latter does not ſound like a Roman name, and as the orthography in this inſcription is not very correct (as appears in the word *vixſit*) there is reaſon to ſuppoſe that *Puſſitta* might have been intended for *Poſita*, which anſwers to the ſenſe of the inſcription. *Racta* may have been the name of the place where ſhe lived. The ſculpture of this monument is elegant; but the artiſt ſeems likewiſe to have been very negligent in this, having placed the *Patera* or Roſe at (*m*) lower than that at (*n*) on the oppoſite ſide.

About

A

N.º 1.

35 Yards

50 Yards

b b b

74 Yards

86 Yards

160 Yards

188 paced Yards

B

98 Yards

100 paced Yards

N.º 2.

C

67 paced Yards

67 paced Yards

b

34 Yards

a

c

d

a b c d e

N.º 4.

H. Rooke del.

Basire sc.

About two miles Eaſt of Roſe Caſtle is Broad Field, an uncultivated common on Englewood foreſt, and in his Grace the Duke of Portland's manor. Here are three ancient works, within half a mile of each other, forming a triangle, ſaid to be Roman camps. Two of them undoubtedly appear to be ſuch; but the third I ſhall prove to have been an incloſed place, ſet apart for the ſole purpoſe of ſepulture [*c*].

(A) in N° 1, Pl. XVIII, is a plan of the largeſt of theſe camps, called *Caſtle-ſteeds* [*d*]. It is ſituated on an eminence, commanding an extenſive view towards the weſt, in the pariſh of Caſtle Sowerby, and within a quarter of a mile of the little hamlet of Stocklewath, where a brook divides the pariſhes of Caſtle Sowerby and Dalſton.

The conſtruction of this camp is ſingular: it is incloſed with a double ditch and *vallum*; in the centre are little banks of earth and undreſſed ſtones. See their poſitions marked (*b*). The outward *vallum* on the Weſt ſide is 50 yards from the inward *vallum*; on the other ſide, the diſtance is only 35 yards. There is ſomething very particular in the entrance; it begins at ſome diſtance from the outward *vallum*, and continues to the centre of the camp; on each ſide is a little *vallum* of earth, as deſcribed in the plan. On the inner vallum at (*c*) was a ſtone about two feet above the ground, as repreſented in N° 2, at (*a*). In digging round this ſtone, two more appeared erect, as at (*b*). On removing theſe, aſhes were found under the large one, but no urn or burnt bones were to be ſeen. Theſe ſtones evidently appear to have been placed there, as the *vallum* muſt have been partly formed when the ſtones were put up, they being a con-

[*c*] Theſe works are all laid down from the ſame ſcale.

[*d*] This name is more uſually given to thoſe Caſtella that are regularly placed on Severus's wall.

ſiderable

ſiderable height above the level ground. (B) is a plan of the other camp called *White-ſtones*; it has only a ſingle ditch and *vallum*, part of which on the ſouth ſide has been deſtroyed. About half a mile N. W. from this camp is a ſquare piece of ground, which has been incloſed with a little *vallum* of earth, erroneouſly called *Stoneraiſe-camp* [*e*]. See the plan (C). Two of the ſides are now perfect, the length of each 67 yards: within this, there appears to have been another ſmall incloſure, 34 yards by 22; from whence, I have been told, ſome hundred loads of ſtoneshave been taken for the repair of walls, &c; and, from the quantity that is left, people canclude that this muſt have been a Roman ſtation, and that the ſtones are the remains of walls of the houſes; but it will appear, upon a cloſe examination, that the bank of looſe ſtones marked (*a*) in the plan are the remains of four carns; their circular ſhapes are viſible, but almoſt deſtroyed, by the labourers having ſcattered about the ſmall ſtones in ſearch of the large ones, which were found to be of more uſe. Near to theſe are two more defaced carns; two appear at (*b*); and three more, very diſtinct ones, at (*c*); the circular hole marked (*d*), which I opened, had no appearance of having been a carn; nor was there any thing diſtinguiſhable, except part of a flat ſtone, which appeared above the ſurface, as repreſented at (*c*), in N° 2. Being willing to examine the ſhape of this ſtone, I employed three men to clear away the earth, which when removed, (with many large ſtones that had been thrown in) it plainly appeared to have been ſhaped, and placed on a pavement as in the drawing (*e*) in N° 2. Near the narrow end of this ſtone, was another placed erect, near which

[*e*] I do not find that theſe camps have any where been noticed.

lay

lay part of a handmill, ſee (*a*) in N° 4. This, when perfect, muſt have been of the ſame ſize and ſhape as that found among ſome Druidical circles at Dutwoad near Hurtleſnoor, Derbyſhire [*g*]. The turning over the great ſtone, to examine the pavement, required the efforts of three men. Its weight is ſuppoſed to be about three ton [*h*]. When removed, a thin coat of baked earth entirely covered the ſpace on which it lay, [*i*]. On this was found a tooth, ſmall bits of burnt bones and aſhes. This floor was laid upon a body of clay three inches thick, which covered the pavement of flat ſtones. See the plan of the pavement at (*e*) in N° 2. Theſe ſtones were taken up, and the ground examined to the depth of one foot and a half; here the men came to a ſkerry which covers the natural rock.

I muſt here beg leave to obſerve, that as carns and *tumuli* of earth and ſtones were ſepulchres of the Britons as well as of the Romans, it appears to me very doubtful to which of the two this extraordinary ſepulchre belonged. We are told, that the Druids burnt, and afterwards buried the dead. It was not unuſual for the ancient Britons to place great ſtones on their carns and burying places, and we have here a very ſingular one, ſhaped like a coffin. Hand mills were uſed by the Britons and Romans. *Stoneraiſe*, the name given to theſe carns, favors the ſuppoſition of their being Britiſh. There is on the road to Kendal a heap of ſtones called *Dunmal Raiſe*. In Bourn's and Nicholſon's Antiquities of Weſtmorland and Cumberland, is the following account of it. "*Dunmal Raiſe* is a large mountain, a great part "whereof is in the pariſh of Graſmere, Weſtmorland, over

[*g*] See Archæol. vol. VII. p. 19.

[*h*] Its length on the top 5 feet 10 inches, width 2 feet 4 inches.

[*i*] Specimens of which I have ſent for the inſpection of the Society.

"which

" which the highway leads, from Keſwick by Embleſide to Ken-
" dal. It is ſo called from a great heap or *raiſe* of ſtones, by the
" highway ſide, which divides Cumberland from Weſtmorland,
" thrown together in ancient times, either by Dunmail ſome
" time king of Cumberland, as a mark of the utmoſt border of
" his kingdom, or by ſome other in remembrance of his name,
" for ſome memorable act done by him there, or ſome victory ob-
" tained over him [*k*]."—Neither of theſe I think could be the occaſion of erecting this heap of ſtones; it is, moſt probably, the burying place of Dunmail.—Should the ſepulchre I have been treating of be thought to be Britiſh, it, moſt probably, was the burying place of ſome conſiderable perſon, if we may judge from the conſtruction of the ſtone floor, pavement, &c.—On the other hand, we know that the Romans were, for a conſiderable time, in every part of Cumberland; and that it was uſual for them to have their burying places at ſome diſtance from their ſtations. We are likewiſe informed that the Romans had a puniſh-
" ment, which ſeems to have been proper for incendiaries, and
" that was wrapping up the criminal in a ſort of coat daubed over
" with pitch and then ſetting it on fire [*l*]". In this caſe it is to be ſuppoſed, that no regard would be paid to their aſhes, by putting them in urns; but, ſhould the malefactor happen to be a man of ſome rank, it is not improbable but that his friends might place a ſtone over his aſhes, which when covered with a little earth, without the diſtinguiſhable *Tumulus*, his ſepulchre would not be eaſily diſcovered.

Theſe conjectures I ſubmit to the better judgment of the Society, whoſe opinion on this very ſingular ſepulchre will, I am certain, be much more ſatisfactory.

[*k*] Hiſtory of Weſtmoreland and Cumberland, vol. I. p. 149.
[*l*] Kennet, Rom. Ant. part II. p. 118.